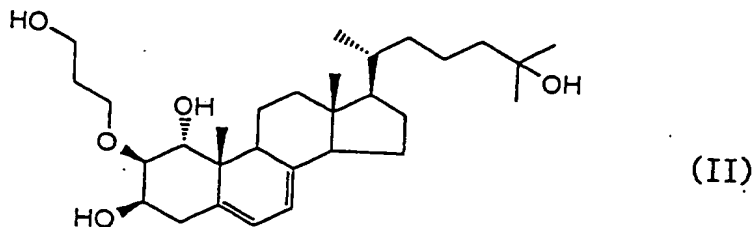


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

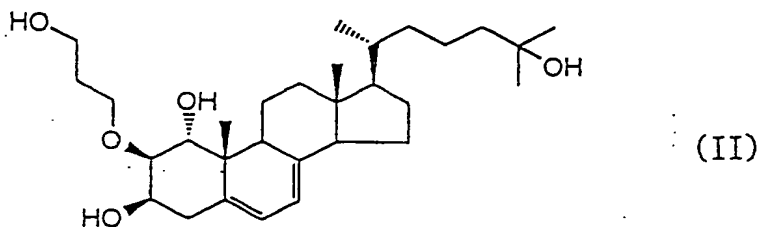
1. A method for purifying the compound represented by formula (II):



comprising recrystallizing a crude or preliminarily purified product of the compound represented by formula (II) from an alcohol.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

3. A purified product of the compound represented by formula (II)



from an alcohol;

subjecting the recrystallized compound of formula (II) to ultraviolet light radiation and then a thermal isomerization reaction to produce a vitamin D derivative represented by formula (I);

purifying the crude or preliminarily purified vitamin D derivative of formula (I) using reverse phase chromatography; and

crystallizing the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from an organic solvent.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the organic solvent is an aprotic organic solvent.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the aprotic organic solvent is ethyl acetate, acetone, acetonitrile, or mixtures thereof.

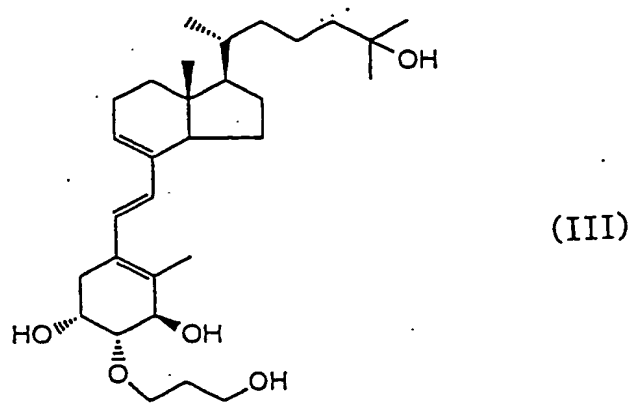
8. The method according to claim 5 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

9. The method according to claim 6 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

10. The method according to claim 7 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein the alcohol is methanol.

12. A compound represented by formula (III):



13. A compound represented by formula (IV):

